



Statement of David Novicki, DPM
Finance, Revenue and Bonding committee
House Bill 5493
March 9, 2016

Members of the Committee:

My name is David Novicki, DPM. I am a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine and practice in New Haven. I am representing the Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association in support of House Bill 5493, *An Act Phasing Out the Ambulatory Surgical Center Tax*.

As you know, this tax was enacted at the last-minute in the 2015 Legislative Session. It singles out just one medical practice mode, is discriminatory and simply adds to the cost of health care. Please know that if patients are sent to the hospital for their procedures, the overall cost is higher. Those costs are passed to the insurer; they are passed to the patient, and the state pays more when Medicaid is involved.

My patients prefer the accessibility of a modern, safe and attractive out-patient surgical center. This tax works to deter them. It is hurting the financial stability of out-patient surgical center facilities where I practice. Office hours might have to be reduced as well as staff reductions made.

As has been indicated in other testimony today, only four states have imposed similar taxes. Two states have since repealed them.

Please take that same step and enact House Bill 5493. This 6 percent levy is hurting our patients, who ultimately are paying it.